to the Statement on Industrial Policy. Upto 20th February, 1992, under this facility, Reserve Bank of India has granted approvals in 42 cases involving 51% foreign equity participation totalling Rs. 130.79 crores. Approvals by the Reserve Bank of India under this facility are subject to the condition that dividend on foreign equity are met out of export earnings.

In addition to the proposals involving 51% foreign equity participation cleared by the Reserve Bank of India, Government have cleared 28 proposals involving foreign equity participation of more than 50% since the announcement of the New Industrial Policy and upto the end of January, 1992. Total foreign invertment envisaged in these proposals amounts to Rs. 86 crores. These approvals have also been subjected to the condition of balacing of dividend on foreign equity against export earnings.

The details of proposals approved by Government for foreign direct investment and/or foreign technology agreement such as the name of the Indian Company, name of the foreign collaborator, item of manufacture and nature of collaboration are published in the monthly newsletter of the Indian Investment Centre, copies of which are sent regularly to the Parliament Library.

Increase in the prices of essential drugs

*55. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Indian Express' dated 10th February, 1992 under the heading "The poor suffer as drug prices soar" ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been an abnormal increase in the prices of essential drugs and these drugs are not available in the market for the last one year ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that millions of people die in the country due to lack of treatment and for want of medicines that are too expensive ;

(d) if so, what effective steps Government have so far taken to bring down the prices and ensure the availability of essential drugs to the people at reasonable prices ; and

(e) whether Government have recently considered the question of pricing and licencing of drugs, and if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 21 formulations mentioned in the said News item, 14 are in the decontrolled category. The price increases in the case of price controlled formulations are due to rise in the input costs. In a situation of rising costs of inputs particularly of imported nature, corresponding increases in the prices of medicines are unavoidable if their availability is to be ensured. There are no reports regarding the non-availability of these medicines in the market for the last one year.

(c) State Governments have provided health and medical facilities through a net-work of hospitals at the district sub-divisional levels, community health centres, primary health centres and sub-centres. Health and medical services at these institutions are provided to the States free of cost or by charging nominal fees. These facilities have been continuously strengthened during the successive Plan periods.

(d) Price revisions of price controlled drugs/formulations are approved on the basis of recom-

mendations of BICP, as per the provisions of DPCO 1987, and after careful scrutiny in the Department. In the case of formulations out side price control as and when any unusual price increase is noticed, Government intervenes to bring it to a reasonable level. With this approach, overall availability of drugs at reasonable prices has been ensured.

(c) These questions are being examined as part of the review of the Drug Policy which is still to be finalised.

New Policy for P.D.S.

*56. SHRI N.E. BALARAM :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new policy for public Distribution System to ensure supply of essntial commodities at cheaper rates to a class of people ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a cut-off line is proposed to be drawn so as to discontinue such supplies to the 'not-so-poor' class of people ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to discontinue supplies under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to any class of people. Under the existing scheme for special subsidy to Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) areas, the Central Government issues foodgrains (wheat and rice) at a specially subsidised price which is Rs. 500/- per tonne less than the normal issue price under PDS. This scheme has been in operation from 1985-86.

Permission to Multi-National Corporations to enter Indian market

*57. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Multi National Corporation seeking permission to enter the Indian market indicating their names, areas of operation, collaborators etc. ; and

(b) what is the response of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The details of approved proposals of fore-in collaboration, including the proposals envisaging direct investment by foreign companies on the form of equity in Indian companies name of foreign collaborators, item of manufacture and nature of collaborations, are published on a monthly basis by the Indian Investment Centre, New Delni, as a supplement to its Monthly Newsletter. Copies of these publications are sent regularly to the Parliament Library.

After the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July, 1991, approvals have been given by Government as well as Reserve Bank of India for a total of about 760 foreign collaborations till the end of 31st January, 1992. Of these, 260 proposals approved envisage direct investment by foreign companies of over Rs. 580 crores.

Golden handshake scheme to prune the size of bureaucracy

*58 SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :
SHRI SYED SIBTEYRAZI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce a golden